

Through a survey, focus groups, and semi-structured interviews, data was collected on the organizational capacity developed through community-engaged programs as well as strategies to further address community needs through partnership with higher education institutions. Data was analyzed through categorization to identify themes of community partner organization capacity development and growth strategies.

The analysis of data demonstrated significant themes of capacity development, including:

- Increased number of beneficiaries served
- Improved service utilization by beneficiaries
- Developed new and expanded preexisting programs and services
- Gained collaborative partnerships with other community organizations
- Diminished cost to community

Strategies for further addressing reciprocity through the development of organizational priorities included:

- Increase community-based research projects
- Connect with more research faculty
- Develop multiple points of connection with the college or university

This study contributes to the practice and development of structures to support reciprocity in community relationships with higher education programs. These results translate into practical implications for structuring educational programs that facilitate community partnerships.

References

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